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July 6, 1988

MEDIA RELEASE

UM STUDENTS CAST IN SUMMER THEATRE COMEDY PRODUCTION

MISSOULA --

"Harvey," an enduring comedy written in 1943 by Mary Chase, will run July 20-24 and 26-30 as the second production of the Riverfront Summer Theatre's 1988 season.

Riverfront Summer Theatre is presented by the Department of Drama/Dance in the University of Montana School of Fine Arts. Curtain time is nightly at 8 p.m. in the Caras Park tent in downtown Missoula.

Heading the cast as Veta Simmons is Margaret Johnson, a drama teacher at Missoula Sentinel High School. Bret Tuomi, a junior in drama from Great Falls, will play Simmons' brother, Elwood P. Dowd.

The real star of the show is Harvey, the 6-foot-tall white rabbit who is never on stage. His presence is nonetheless there, however, as he and his friend Elwood manage to influence the lives of every other character in the show. Their actions remind the audience of the importance of love, friendship and whimsy in our lives.

Other UM students who will take part in the comedy are: Rob Cox, a sophomore in drama from Havre, as Dr. Chumley; Gay Nevin, a senior in music and drama from Billings, as Ruth Kelly,

- more -

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R.N., and Victor Seastone, a sophomore in drama from Helena, the production's lighting designer.

Two UM students from Riverton, Wyo., also have parts in the play: Joe Campbell, a junior in drama, will play Duane Wilson, and Robert Harsch, a senior in drama, is the production's sound designer.

Guest director for the show will be Judy Ulrich, head of the drama program at Western Montana College of the University of Montana in Dillon.

The summer theater tent features arena staging with the audience seated cabaret-style on all four sides of the stage. Cocktails and appetizers, catered by Moose McGoo's, will be available all evening.

Call 721-TENT for reservations or ticket information.

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JD
Local, Billings, Great Falls, Havre and Helena media;
Riverton (Wyo.) Ranger
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